




**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** July 7, 2020  
**To:** The Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB)  
**From:** Ken Lyon, RA, Historic Preservation Officer / Associate Planner   
**Subject:** HSPB Work Plan for FY 20/21.

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Typically in the summer, staff and members of the HSPB develop a Work Plan to focus and set priorities for the Board's efforts and activities through the coming fiscal year. It is time to develop the work plan for FY 20/21. The work plan usually has two parts: (1) identification of sites to study for possible Class 1 designation recommendations and (2) Education and Outreach.

Staff seeks input from members of the HSPB in developing the FY 20/21 HSPB Work Plan with the goal of finalizing the work plan at the September 2020 HSPB meeting.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIORITY SITES TO PURSUE CLASS 1 DESIGNATION FOR FY 20/21:**

In recommending and prioritizing possible sites to pursue Class 1 historic site designation, consider:

- Sites that further the purpose of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.<sup>1</sup>
- Sites that are rare or unusual, "one-of-a-kind", possess particularly notable characteristics, or are uniquely "Palm Springs". (Review the Class 3 list).
- Sites that are historically significant but under-recognized, or little known by the public.
- Sites vulnerable or threatened by demolition, redevelopment pressure or are otherwise "at risk".
- Sites that, through designation, can become catalysts for economic development and/or neighborhood improvement / revitalization.

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<sup>1</sup> 8.05.010 Purpose and authority of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

*This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority of [Government Code](#) Section 37361 for the purpose of preserving areas and specific buildings of the city which reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, architectural and archaeological history. This chapter is intended to stabilize and improve buildings, structures or areas which are considered to be of historical, architectural, archaeological or ecological value, to foster civic beauty, to strengthen the local economy and to promote the use of historic resources for the education and welfare of the citizens. (Ord. 1970 § 2, 2019)*

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The following initiatives were the Board's top priorities for FY 19/20 which remain unfinished. These could be carried over as the priorities for FY 20/21 or different priorities could be set.

1. The Araby Adobe (2275 S Araby).
2. The Araby Rock Houses. (2350 S Araby, 2500 S Araby, 2540 S Araby, 2550 S Araby).
3. Korakia Pensione. (257 S Patencio Rd) (In light of limited interest by the neighborhood organization to support the establishment of a Tennis Club historic district, staff recommends nominations for individual sites be pursued instead).
4. The Gas Company Building (201 N Sunrise Way).
5. 545 South Calle Palo Fierro ("Concrete log house").
6. Union Bank of California Building. (500 S. Indian Canyon Drive).

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION & OUTREACH FOR FY 20/21:

1. Continue Staff / Board presentation to the Realtor's Board about Historic Preservation and real estate activities.
2. Participation in Modernism Week Modernism Show at the Convention Center (if scheduled). (October 2020 and February 2021).

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER INITIATIVES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR FY 20/21:

1. Define a project and pursue an application for a grant from the Certified Local Government program through the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), (list of eligible project types attached).
2. Coordination with local schools, colleges, or other educational institutions to promote and encourage awareness in Preservation.

#### BUDGET AND STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS.

It is important to note that the budget allocation for HSPB activities for the 20/21 fiscal year is considerably smaller (roughly two-thirds less than the \$53,500 allocated by the City Council in recent years). This may result in reduced capacity to initiate historic resource reports and other board-initiated projects. Also, staff cuts in the Planning Department necessitate that the Historic Preservation Officer take on multiple other assignments. Thus staff time dedicated solely to historic preservation activities initiated by the board will likely be reduced.

#### Attachments:

- CLG grant past awards list
- DPR / Data sheets